Case	1		7 Entered 10/03/17 16:5 age 1 of 13	1:14 Desc		
1	BROWN RUDNICK LLP					
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6	OF UNSECURED CREDITORS					
7						
8	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT					
9	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA					
10	SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DIVISION					
11						
12	In re:		Lead Case No.: 1:17-bk-1			
13	IRONCLAD PERFORMANCE WEAR CORPORATION, a California corporation,		Jointly administered with: 1:17-bk-12409-MB			
14	Debtor and Debtor in Possession.		Chapter 11 Cases			
15			OPPOSITION TO DEBTORS' EMERGENCY MOTION FOR ENTRY OF			
16	In re:		AN INTERIM ORDER: THE DEBTORS TO (A)	OBTAIN		
17	IRONCLAD PERFORMAN CORPORATION, a Nevada		POSTPETITION FINANCING PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. §§ 105, 361, 362 AND 364, AND (B) UTILIZE CASH COLLATERAL PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. §§ 361, 362, 363 AND 364; (II) GRANTING ADEQUATE			
18	Debtor and Debtor	in Possession.				
19	Affects both Debtors Affects Ironclad Perform Corporation, a California co		PROTECTION PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. §§ 361, 362, 363 AND 364; (III)			
20		ormance Wear	SCHEDULING A FINAL HEARING PURSUANT TO BANKRUPTCY RULES			
21		a corporation only		4001(b) AND 4001(c); AND (IV) GRANTING		
22	Affects Ironclad Performance Wear		DATE: October 6, 2017			
23	Corporation, a Nevada corporation only		TIME: 10:00 A.M. CTRM: 303			
24			CTRIVI. 303			
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The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee") of Ironclad Performance Wear Corporation, a California corporation ("Ironclad California"), in the jointly administered chapter 11 cases (the "Chapter 11 Cases") of Ironclad California and Ironclad Performance Wear Corporation, a Nevada corporation (collectively "Debtors", "Ironclad", or the "Company"), in the above-captioned bankruptcy case submits its opposition to Debtors' Emergency Motion For Entry Of An Interim Order: (I) Authorizing The Debtors To (A) Obtain Postpetition Financing Pursuant To 11 U.S.C. §§ 105, 361, 362 And 364, And (B) Utilize Cash Collateral Pursuant To 11 U.S.C. §§ 361, 362, 363 And 364; (II) Granting Adequate Protection Pursuant To 11 U.S.C. §§ 361, 362, 363 And 364; (III) Scheduling A Final Hearing Pursuant To Bankruptcy Rules 4001(B) And 4001(C); And (IV) Granting Related Relief [Docket No. 10] (the "DIP Motion") filed by Debtors as follows:

1. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

The Debtors apparently believe that the DIP Loan is necessary and that the terms provided by Radians are preferable to a contested cash collateral request. While the Committee supports the Debtors' request, the Committee is concerned that some of the terms of the proposed DIP Loan favor Radians—the DIP Lender and Stalking Horse Bidder— and pose a significant risk of diminishing or even eliminating unsecured creditor recoveries.

The Committee is most concerned with rigid milestones and onerous default provisions contained in the proposed DIP Final Order and DIP Loan Agreement, which, in the aggregate, jeopardize (i) Ironclad's existence as a going concern, (ii) the full repayment of unsecured creditors, and (iii) potential distributions to equity. Much of the Committee's trepidation stems from the extraordinary powers Radians seeks from this Court; namely, the authority to terminate the automatic stay to pursue far-reaching remedies following an Event of Default under the DIP

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Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the DIP Motion.

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Loan Agreement.² As described below, the Events of Default are broadly defined and easily triggered.

2. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

A. The Chapter 11 Cases

On September 8, 2017 (the "Petition Date"), each of the Debtors filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. Since the Petition Date, the Debtors continue to operate and manage their businesses as debtors in possession. Simultaneous with the filing of these Chapter 11 Cases, and also on the Petition Date, the Debtors executed an asset purchase agreement (the "APA") with Radians Wareham Holding, Inc. ("Radians" or the "Stalking Horse") for substantially all of Ironclad's assets.

On the Petition Date, the Debtors filed, among other things: (i) the Omnibus Declaration of L. Geoff Greulich in Support of Debtors' Emergency "First Day" Motions [Docket No. 6] (the "Greulich Declaration"); (ii) the Motion; and (iii) the Debtors' Motion For An Order: (1)

Approving Form Of Asset Purchase Agreement For Stalking Horse Bidder And For Prospective Overbidders To Use, (2) Approving Auction Sale Format, Bidding Procedures, And Stalking Horse Bid Protections; (3) Approving Form Of Notice To Be Provided To Interested Parties; And (4) Scheduling A Court Hearing To Consider Approval Of The Sale To The Highest Bidder[Docket No. 10] (the "Bidding Procedures Motion").

As described more fully in the DIP Motion, the Debtors have obtained a commitment from Radians to provide DIP Financing in a principal amount of up to \$2 million (the "<u>DIP Loan</u>" or "<u>DIP Financing</u>"), pursuant to an agreement dated September 8, 2017 (the "<u>DIP Loan</u> Agreement").

On September 13, 2017, the Court issued its *Interim Order: (I) Authorizing the Debtors' to (A) Obtain Postpetition Financing Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 105, 361, 362 and 364, and (B)*Utilize Cash Collateral Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 361, 362, 363 and 364; (II) Granting Adequate

The Committee is in conversation with the Debtors, Radians, and the Official Committee of Equity Security Holders (the "Equity Committee") in an effort to resolve this objection but was unable to do so prior to the DIP Motion objection deadline.

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Id. at § 10.1(k). *Id.* at § 10.1(j).

Id. at § 10.1(n).

Protection Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 361, 362, 363 and 364; (III) Scheduling a Final Hearing Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 4001(B) and 4001(C); and (IV) Granting Related Relief [Docket No. 31] (the "First Interim DIP Order").

On September 27, 2017, the Court issued its Second Interim Order: (I) Authorizing the Debtors' to (A) Obtain Postpetition Financing Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 105, 361, 362 and 364, and (B) Utilize Cash Collateral Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 361, 362, 363 and 364; (II) Granting Adequate Protection Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 361, 362, 363 and 364; (III) Scheduling a Final Hearing Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 4001(B) and 4001(C); and (IV) Granting Related Relief [Docket No. 70] (the "Second Interim DIP Order"). On September 28, 2017, the Court entered an Order (the "Bidding Procedures Order") approving the Bidding Procedures Motion. See Docket No. 71.

DIP Loan Terms В.

The proposed DIP Order and the DIP Loan Agreement include the following, inter alia, Events of Default:

- Borrowers shall institute any proceeding or investigation or support the same by any other Person who may challenge the status, validity, perfection or priority of the liens on the Collateral created by the Loan Documents, or the Financing Order, securing the Obligations;³
- the entry of an order staying, reversing, or vacating the Credit Advances, any Liens securing the Obligations (or the validity or first priority status thereof) or the Financing Order;4
- the entry of an order granting any other super-priority claim or Lien equal or superior in priority to the Lien securing the Obligations granted to Radians, other than the Carve Out, without Radians' prior written consent;⁵
- the failure of Borrowers to have the Bankruptcy Court enter an order not later than November 15, 2017 or such later date as may be agreed upon in writing by the parties hereto (the "Sale Order") approving a sale of substantially all of Borrower's assets and providing for the immediate repayment in full of the Obligations from the proceeds of such sale;6 and

See DIP Loan Agreement, Art. X, at § 10.1 (f)

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• the failure of the Debtors to obtain (i) entry of the Interim Financing Order by the Bankruptcy Court in form and substance acceptable to Radians in its sole and absolute discretion within five (5) business days of the Petition Date, and (ii) entry of the Final Financing Order within thirty (30) days of the Petition Date.⁷

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Three business days after Radians notifies the Debtors of the occurrence of an Event of Default,⁸ the automatic stay immediately terminates, and Radians is authorized to exercise a wide array of remedies, including:

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• declare all of the outstanding DIP Loan and the PreBankruptcy Secured Debt due and payable;9

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• enforce all liens and security interests in the Pre-Petition Collateral and the Collateral;¹⁰

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• institute proceedings to enforce payment of the DIP Loan and the PreBankruptcy Secured Debt;¹¹

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• terminate Radians' obligation to make an additional Credit Advance;12 and

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• exercise any other remedies and take any other actions available to it at law, in equity, under the Post-Petition Note, the Pre-Bankruptcy Secured Debt, the Bankruptcy Code, other applicable law or pursuant to this Order.¹³

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Where, as here, the Debtor and Radians agree that Radians is adequately protected by a significant equity cushion, the remedy of immediate relief from the automatic stay premised on the Events of Default is draconian.

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3. ARGUMENT

19 20 To obtain postpetition, debtor-in-possession financing under Bankruptcy Code Section 364(d), a debtor must show, among other things, that the terms of the financing are fair,

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reasonable, and adequate. In re Ames Dept. Stores, Inc., 115 B.R. 34, 37 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1990).

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The Debtors may also file an emergency motion with the Court during the Default Notice Period to challenge the Event of Default. *See* Second Interim DIP Order, at p. 9.

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See Proposed Final DIP Order at \P (j)(i).

See id. at \P (j)(ii).

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See id. at \P (j)(iii).

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See id. at \P (j)(iv).

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See id. at $\P(j)(v)$.

⁷ Id. at § 10.1(o).

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The Court should only approve the proposed DIP Loan to the extent it is "in the best interests of the general creditor body." See In re Roblin Indus., 52 B.R. 241, 244 (Bankr. W.D.N.Y. 1985).

Conversely, where, as here, the proposed DIP Loan favors a secured creditor at the expense of the Debtors' general creditor body, it should not be approved. See Resolution Trust Corp. v. Official Unsecured Creditors Comm. (In re Defender Drug Stores, Inc.), 145 B.R. 312, 317 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1992) ("Debtors in possession generally enjoy little negotiating power with a proposed lender, particularly when the lender has a prepetition lien on cash collateral. As a result, lenders often exact favorable terms that harm the estate and creditors."); In re Tamarack Resort, LLC, Case No. 09-03911-TLM, 2010 WL 4117459, at *10 (Bankr. D. Idaho Oct. 19, 2010) (noting that in connection with obtaining postpetition financing, the debtor-in-possession "often lacks significant negotiating leverage and that creditors may be tempted to overreach"); A&KEndowment, Inc. v. Gen. Growth Props., Inc. (In re Gen. Growth Props., Inc., 423 B.R. 716, 725 (S.D.N.Y. 2010) ("[P]roposed financing will not be approved where it is apparent that the purpose of the financing is to benefit a creditor rather than the estate.") (quoting Ames, 115 B.R. at 39)).

Automatic Termination of the Automatic Stay Unjustifiably Threatens These Α. **Estates**

Pursuant to the proposed Final DIP Order, the occurrence of an Event of Default before the Sale Hearing will unnecessarily threaten what the Debtors have previously termed as near-certain full repayment of unsecured creditor claims. Upon the occurrence of an Event of Default, Radians will provide the Debtors a written notice specifying "the effective date of the default, and a description, nature and scope of the default." See Second Interim DIP Order at 9. If the Debtors fail to cure the default or file an emergency motion with the Court within three business days contesting the occurrence of the alleged default, the automatic stay immediately terminates and Radians can exercise a multitude of remedies, including foreclosing on its Collateral and demanding immediate repayment of the DIP Loan and the PreBankruptcy Secured Debt. 14 Id.

An Event of Default also triggers the Default Interest Rate, which equals 18% per annum. See DIP Loan Agreement, Art. II., § 2.3(a). The Default Interest Rate—which is 800 basis points higher than the standard rate—is exceedingly punitive and is significantly above-market when compared to similar DIP loans recently approved by bankruptcy courts. See, e.g., In re American Apparel, LLC, Case No. 16-12551 (BLS) (Bankr.

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The Radians stalking horse bid is premised on the Debtors having significant equity.

Under these circumstances, the Committee questions why Radians requires the authority to terminate the automatic stay and pursue collection remedies, a course that will almost certainly destroy any value in these estates beyond repayment of the recently acquired Revolving Loan.

The Debtors' own investment banker testified that acquisitive interest has been lively, and all interested parties expect the consummation of a sale that will generate significant proceeds. In other words, this is not a case where the secured lender must quickly exercise its remedies or the value of its collateral will plummet. Rather, this is a circumstance where Radians has executed a strategy to deprive the Debtors of cash and then offer them a lifeline at a steep mark-up.

Two observations are beyond dispute: First, termination of the automatic stay, without affording the Committee, the opportunity to contest whether termination of the stay is appropriate, cannot be in the best interest of these estates. *See Roblin Indus.*, 52 B.R. at 244. Terminating the automatic stay without reference to the protections inherent in Bankruptcy Code Section 362 will foreclose any opportunity of realizing the going concern value of the Debtors' business. Second, it is clear that this provision was included in the proposed Final DIP Order at Radians' insistence. As the *Resolution Trust* court sagely cautioned, given the inequality in bargaining power between a debtor and DIP lender, "lenders often exact favorable terms that harm the estate and creditors." *Resolution Trust*, 145 B.R. at 317. The proposed termination of the automatic stay just three business days after an Event of Default is exactly that: a Radians-favorable term that harms these estate and creditors. This Court should not grant the DIP Motion unless the Debtors, the Committee, and the Equity Committee can contest Radians' relief from stay request in the ordinary course.

B. The November 15th Sale Order Milestone Should be Extended.

The proposed DIP Loan should not be approved until the requirement that the Court enters the Sale Order by November 15, 2017 is removed. *See* DIP Loan Agreement, Art. X, § 10.1(n).

D. Del. Nov. 14, 2016) (200 basis point spread); *In re American Gilsonite Co., Inc.*, Case No. 16-12316 (CSS) (Bankr. D. Del. Oct. 24, 2016) (200 basis points spread); *In re ITT Educational Srvs Inc.*, Case No. 16-07207 (JMC) (Bankr. S.D. Ind. Sept. 16, 2016) (200 basis point spread).

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Under the proposed DIP Loan Agreement, Radians is authorized to pursue a multitude of remedies—including foreclosing on its collateral—beginning on November 20, 2017 (three business days following the Sale Order Event of Default). In the process, Radians would claim the most valuable of the Debtors' assets, effectively barring any possibility of a going concern sale.

It is wholly conceivable that the Debtors may determine that a prospective overbidder offers the highest and best bid. However, given the compressed timeline between the Auction (October 27) and the Sale Order Milestone (November 15), it is also possible that the Auction winner and the Debtors are unable to obtain Court approval of the Sale Order by November 15. As written, the DIP Loan Agreement authorizes Radians to foreclose on the very collateral committed to the Auction winner solely because it took longer than projected to obtain Court approval of the Sale Order. Neither the Debtors nor Radians has articulated why scores of jobs, repayment of unsecured creditors, and substantial distribution to equity holders should all be jeopardized because an artificial deadline is not met.

The Sale Order Milestone is particularly inappropriate considering Radians is already protected vis-à-vis the Break-Up Fee granted in the Bidding Procedures Order. Specifically, if the Debtors name an entity other the Radians the Auction's winner, Radians will receive a \$500,000 Break-Up Fee. *See* Bidding Procedures Order at ¶ 5(g). Thus, Radians could conceivably both collect a \$500,000 Break-Up Fee, and commence foreclosure proceedings if the November 15 Sale Order Milestone is not met in connection with an Auction overbidder. Neither the Debtors nor Radians has articulated a reason for this artificial yet prejudicial deadline.

The Committee proposes an alternative that protects Radians' rights but does not jeopardize the continuation of the Debtors' business or the recoveries of their stakeholders. The DIP Loan Agreement provides that the DIP Loan's Maturity Date is January 1, 2018. The Committee believes it is far more sensible to align the Sale Order Milestone with the Maturity Date and require entry of the Sale Order by January 1, 2018. The Debtors anticipate that the DIP Loan will be repaid from sale proceeds of the Debtors' assets. Accordingly, there is no reason to mandate that the event that is expected to fund the DIP Loan's repayment (the sale) precede the

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Maturity Date by 46 days. The Debtors and other estate professionals could use that time to negotiate the best and fairest deal for these estates, without the arbitrary pressure of a Sale Order Milestone that has no economic rationale.

C. Additional DIP Loan Issues

There are several other Events of Default that would trigger automatic relief from stay, or otherwise jeopardize the reorganization of the Debtors.

The DIP Loan Agreement includes as an Event of Default "the entry an order staying, reversing, or vacating the Credit Advances, any Liens securing the Obligations (or the validity or first priority status thereof) or the Financing Order." DIP Loan Agreement, Art. X, § 10.1(k). This provision should contain an express exemption for challenges initiated by the Committee, the Equity Committee, individual creditors, and equity security holders, so that only the Borrower is precluded from instituting such challenge.

At Article X, § 10.1 (f), the DIP Loan Agreement appears to preclude the Debtors from cooperating with any other Person (including the Committee) who may challenge the status, validity, perfection or priority of the Liens on the Collateral created by the Loan Documents, or the Financing Order securing the Obligations. The Committee understands that the Debtors may not prosecute such actions, but the Debtor may not be prohibited from complying with its fiduciary duties in providing information sought by third parties who seek to challenge the Radians' loan.

Finally, at Article XI, § 11.13, the Debtors propose releases of the DIP Lender and their affiliates—just weeks into these cases—from liability. The release language provides,

Borrowers...and on behalf of each of its respective successors and assigns, hereby waives, releases and discharges [Radians] and all of their directors, officers, employees, attorneys and agents, from any and all claims, demands, actions or causes of action on or before the date hereof and arising out of or in any way relating to this Agreement, the Loan Documents and any other documents, instruments, agreements, dealings or other matters connected with this Agreement, including, without limitation, all known and unknown matters, claims, transactions or things occurring on or prior to the date hereof relating to this Agreement.

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DIP Loan Agreement, Art. XI, § 11.13. Such broad releases of estate claims and causes of action are appropriate, if ever, only as part of a chapter 11 plan—not as part of a financing order and not only weeks into a debtor's case. *See, e.g., In re Braniff Airways*, 700 F.2d 935, 940 (5th Cir. 1983) (for releases to be permissible, "the parties and the district court must scale the hurdles erected in Chapter 11"). No evidence has been introduced justifying such far-reaching releases at this early juncture.

These cases are moving at a rapid clip, and the Committee appreciates Radians' participation, but reasonable safeguards must remain in place to preserve the interests of unsecured creditors and equity security holders in a case where both the Debtors and Radians agree that the proposed sale should make Radians whole and provide a substantial recovery for unsecured creditors and equity security holders. The Committee remains hopeful that the Debtors' projections will be realized, but the Court must ensure that preventative measures are taken to protect the Debtors' value.

4. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Committee respectfully requests that the Court (i) deny the DIP Motion (or condition approval on modifications consistent with this Objection); and (ii) grant such other and further relief as is just and proper.

DATED: October 3, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

BROWN RUDNICK LLP

By: CATHRINE M. CASTALDI

Proposed Attorneys for OFFICAL COMMITTEE

OF UNSECURED CREDITORS

PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding. My business address is: 2211 Michelson Drive, Suite 700, Irvine, CA 92612

A true and correct copy of the foregoing document entitled (specify): OPPOSITION TO DEBTORS' EMERGENCY

MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN INTERIM ORDER: //) AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS TO (A) OBTAIN POSTPETITION
ENANCING DURSHANT TO 11 U.S.C. 88 105	, 361, 362 AND 364, AND (B) UTILIZE CASH COLLATERAL
PURCHANT TO 44 H.S.C. 88 364 362 363 AND 3	64; (II) GRANTING ADEQUATE PROTECTION PURSUANT TO 1
ILS C 88 361 362 363 AND 364: (III) SCHEDUI	LING A FINAL HEARING PURSUANT TO BANKRUPTCY RULES
4001(b) AND 4001(c): AND (IV) GRANTING REL	ATED RELIEF will be served or was served (a) on the judge in
chambers in the form and manner required by LBR 5	005-2(d); and (b) in the manner stated below:
1 TO BE SERVED BY THE COURT VIA NOTICE O	DF ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF): Pursuant to controlling General
Orders and LBR, the foregoing document will be serv	red by the court via NEF and hyperlink to the document. On (date)
October 3, 2017, I checked the CM/ECF docket for the	nis bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding and determined that the
following persons are on the Electronic Mail Notice Li	ist to receive NEF transmission at the email addresses stated below:
	⊠ Service information continued on attached page
2. SERVED BY UNITED STATES MAIL:	
On (date) October 3, 2017, I served the following per	sons and/or entities at the last known addresses in this bankruptcy
case or adversary proceeding by placing a true and c	correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope in the United States mail,
first class, postage prepaid, and addressed as follows judge <u>will be completed</u> no later than 24 hours after t	s. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that mailing to the he document is filed.
Ironclad Performance Wear Corporation,	Ironclad Performance Wear Corporation,
a California corporation	a Nevada corporation
15260 Ventura Blvd., 20th Floor	15260 Ventura Blvd., 20th Floor
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403	Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
	☐ Service information continued on attached page
for each person or entity served): Pursuant to F.R.Ci following persons and/or entities by personal delivery such service method), by facsimile transmission and/	iv.P. 5 and/or controlling LBR, on (date) October 3, 2017, I served the overnight mail service, or (for those who consented in writing to for email as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration age will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is
The Honorable Martin R. Barash U.S. Bankruptcy Court 21041 Burbank Blvd. Woodland Hills, CA 91367	
	⊠ Service information continued on attached page
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the	ne United States that the foregoing is true and correct.
, , , , ,	
October 3, 2017 JEANNIE MENDEZ Date Printed Name	Signature Mend
Date Printed Name	Signature

This form is mandatory. It has been approved for use by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

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